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P'YONGYANG CENTRAL BROADCASTING STATION, 1950

Pukhan Tukpo (North Korea News)
Seoul, 1 Feb 1950

Kim Cha-ip

[Summary: The following report gives the organization, programming, and facilities of the P'yongyang Central Broadcasting Station. The information is based on an article written by Kim Cha-ip, former announcer of that station.]

The P'yongyang Central Broadcasting Station is controlled by the Ministry of Culture and Propaganda of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The director of the P'yongyang Central Broadcasting Station is directly responsible to the Ministry of Culture and Propaganda. The station is composed of eight departments: broadcasting, reports, monitoring, overseas broadcasting, technical, general affairs, accounting, and the department to improve the culture of the masses. There is also a staff section directly under the director. Of these eight departments, the department to improve the culture of the masses is known to be the most important since it prepares the radio propaganda programs, although the basic programming policy is formulated jointly by the Korean Labor Party, the Democratic Front for Unification of the Fatherland, and the Ministry of Culture and Propaganda.

These three organizations assign censorship officers to the P'yongyang Central Broadcasting Station to examine all broadcasting materials. In the case of local stations, the announcer in charge of programs submits the outline of his broadcasting material to the Korean Labor Party for approval several days ahead of the broadcasting date. Also, on the day before the broadcast, he submits the draft of his material to the Korean Labor Party for final approval.

Emphasis is placed on lectures to disseminate propaganda to the masses. The lecturers are selected from among party members, irrespective of their party position. The only requirement for this job is the ability to read aloud the text prepared by the Korean Labor Party. Common laborers are frequently asked to deliver a radio speech.

Children's programs are equally important for propaganda and agitation purposes. Students' associations frequently take part in the children's programs.

In a strict sense, the P'yongyang Central Broadcasting Station has no regular broadcasting schedule. The length of each program is determined by its propaganda value. Some programs are repeated again and again.

Local relay stations are located in Ch'ongjin, Hamhung, Wonsan, Sinuiju, Haeju, Ch'olwon, Songjin, and Kanggye. [According to the 1949 Choson Chungang Nyongam (Korean Central Yearbook, 1949), another relay station is located in Hoeryong.] The facilities of the first three stations and the P'yongyang Central Broadcasting Station were installed originally by the Japanese before World War II. Immediately after World War II, the P'yongyang Central Broadcasting Station operated at 500-watt medium-wave band. It had no short-wave transmitter.

In December 1946, a 15-kilowatt short-wave transmitter was imported from the USSR at the cost of 26 million won, which was exchanged for rice. However, this 15-kilowatt transmitter had an effective operating capacity of only 4 kilowatts. A 10-kilowatts medium-wave transmitter was imported on 30 November 1947. On 1 December 1947, these two transmitters were ready for operation.

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The following chart shows the organization of the P'yongyang Central Broadcasting Station:

ORGANIZATION OF P'YONGYANG CENTRAL
BROADCASTING STATION

Ministry of Culture and Propaganda
Director, P'yongyang Central Broadcasting Station
Staff Section
Broadcasting Department
Reports Department
Monitoring Department
Department to Improve the Culture of the Masses
Propaganda and Agitation Section
Lecture Section
Music Section
Children's Section
Overseas Broadcasting Department
Technical Department
Adjustment and Control Section
Transmission
Street Section [This section is probably in charge of installation and maintenance of public address system. According to the author, there were 24 loudspeakers installed in the streets of P'yongyang.]
General Affairs Department
Accounting Department

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